

February 24, 2012

Members of the Community Services Committee:

It is with a sense of purpose and gratitude to the citizens of London that the Citizen's Advisory Panel submits its report for your consideration and perusal.

It was almost six months ago the certain members of council and city staff considered the option of whether citizens in general agreed with the Occupy movement's global concern of income disparity between the 99% and 1%. We were asked as a panel to move into the community and solicit opinions as to whether citizens in fact agreed with this claim. Following numerous consultations in various venues, we received enough data and input to form the conclusion that you will find in this report.

Furthermore, the Panel was encouraged by City staff to consider gathering opinions concerning the province's Social Assistance Review (SAR). The Panel worked with the staff of compile pertinent questions that would speak specifically to the points that SAR commissioners were inquiring about. Again, consultations were held and the data and recommendations are included in the report.

Now that the exercise we had been asked to undertake is concluded, we wish to thank the City and the citizens of London for providing this opportunity for us to assist in ways we believed helpful. We learned enough over the months to unanimously reach an agreement that we continue in this work of citizen-to-citizen dialogue and engagement independent of the City of London itself. Learning that income disparity in a greater concern among Londoners than we initially perceived, we will seek to continue the dialogue in ways that further our understanding of the greater problems and develop possible solutions.

It is with a sense of gratitude to the City and an abiding sense of respect for one another gleaned from our experience that we submit this report for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Citizen's Advisory Panel